

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 ARA-06 /071 W
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R 121528Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4154

INFO USMISSION USUN NEWYORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 1501

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, RQ

SUBJ: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: PUERTO RICO

REF: STATE 049330

1. DURING MARCH 11 MEETING WITH DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS KANDE OF GOS MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, DCM MADE ORAL DEMARCH EMPHASIZING HIGH IMPORTANCE US ATTACHES TO PUERTO RICAN ISSUE. HE DESCRIBED US DESIRE TO MAINTAIN CONTINUING DIALOGUE WITH SENEGALESE DURING MONTHS LEADING UP TO 31ST UNGA ON ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE TO US, PARTICULARLY MATTERS WHICH MIGHT BE BROUGHT BEFORE INTERVENING GATHERINGS SUCH AS NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT. DCM STRESSED THAT US HAD TAKEN FIRM POSITION THAT SUPPORT FOR RESOLUTIONS CHALLENGING STATUS OF PUERTO RICO WOULD BE CONSIDERED INTERFERENCE IN DOMESTIC AMERICAN AFFAIRS. HE RECALLED OUR PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS WITH MINISTRY ON PUERTO RICO (DAKAR 5836) IN WAKE OF DAKAR COMMODITIES CONFERENCE AND OF LIMA NON-ALIGNED MEETING, AND ASKED IF KANDE COULD NOW FURTHER EXPALIN SENEGAL'S POSITION ON PUERTO RICO.

2. KANDE SAID THAT PUERTO RICO WAS NOT RPT NOT ISSUE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO SENEGAL AND HE UNDERSTOOD OUR POSITION THAT IT WAS DOMESTIC AFFAIR. UNFORTUNATELY, HE SAID, QUESTIONS
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WHICH WERE NOT IMPORTANT TO SENEGAL OFTEN BECAME OBJECT OF

POLITICAL BARGAINING IN NON-ALIGNED CONTEXT WHICH NECESSITATED SENEGALESE SUPPORT. HE AGREED TO BRING ISSUE TO ATTENTION OF FOREIGN MINISTER, WITH A VIEW TOWARD PREPARING DECISION RECOMMENDATION ON PUERTO RICO FOR PRESIDENTIAL CONSIDERATION. KANDE SAID THAT AFTER HE HAD DISCUSSED QUESTION WITH MINISTER HE WOULD ADVISE WHAT ACTION WE SHOULD TAKE NEXT. HE BELIEVED THAT WRITTEN DEMARCH BY US WOULD PROBABLY BE REQUESTED. KANDE FELT THAT US EMPHASIS ON "OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE" ANGLE MIGHT STRIKE RESPONSIVE CHORD WITH PRESIDENT SENGHOR, SINCE SENEGALESE PUBLICLY ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO MAKING FOREIGN POLICY ON BASIS OF ESTABLISHED PRINCIPLES, AND HAD ADHERED TO ANGOLAN POLICY PROMISED ON OPPOSITION TO OUTSIDE INTERVENTION. KANDE ASKED THAT EMBASSY CONTINUE TO SUPPLY HIM WITH BACKGROUND MATERIALS ON PUERTO RICO FOR DISCUSSIONS WITHIN GOS.

3. REFTTEL SPECIFIES THAT US EMPHASIS ON IMPORTANCE ATTACHED TO PUERTO RICO ISSUE MUST BE CONVEYD ORALLY. PLEASE ADVISE WHETHER EMBASSY IS AUTHORIZED TO SUPPLY DIPLOMATIC NOTE SETTING FORTH IMPORTANCE OF PUERTO RICO (AND EMPHASIZING OUR BELIEF THAT LIMA-STYLE RESOLUTIONS ON PUERTO RICO CONSTITUTE INTERFERENCE IN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS) IF WE ARE REQUESTED TO DO SO BY KANDE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LOBBYING, FOREIGN RELATIONS, UNGA RESOLUTIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976DAKAR01501
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760096-1052
From: DAKAR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760368/aaaachov.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 49330
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 MAY 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <15 OCT 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: PUERTO RICO
TAGS: PFOR, RQ, SG, US, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006